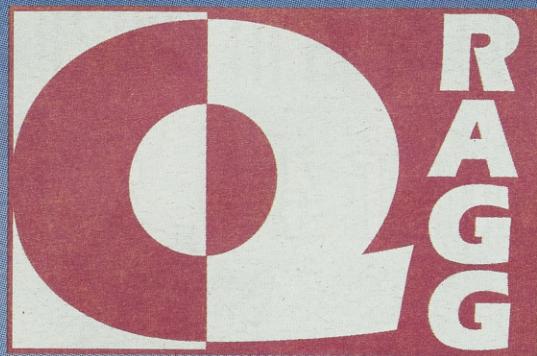


Lavender Library, Archives
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Sacramento, CA

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VOL. 1 • ISSUE 1 • JUNE 5, 2004

**Sacramento's gay,
lesbian, bisexual,
transgender,
questioning
& intersex
community
voice.**



"HELPING TO BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY"

Lambda freedom fair weekend ... THE REAL PARTY IS AT FACES!

SACRAMENTO 20th & K STREETS JUNE 4-5, 2004

faces afterparty

18+
\$10

friday, june 4
preparty
in the big top

CGNIE DRAG CONTEST
TACOS by Michael Madonna

18 and Up dancing with
DJ markiemark 9pm
and comedian
shann carrr 11pm

so much fun it
made us pitch a tent.

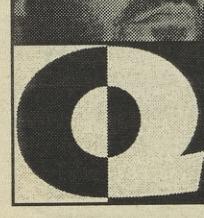
saturday, june 5
afterparty

21+
NO COVER TIL 8

karaoke finals \$500 PRIZE! w/howard 5pm
T-dance w/ jon williams 5pm
country dancing 7:30pm
dj markiemark dance bar 10:30pm
alex video bar DAVID club 21
DRINK SPECIALS! 5-8 \$1 DRAFT \$1 SHOTS!
IN THE BIG TOP \$10
TACOS by Michael Madonna
DJ TONY CAMPOS R&B 9pm
thea austin 11:30pm



faces.net

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Letter From the Publisher.....4

Letter From the Editor.....4

Q-SPORTS

Monarch's Season Tearout.....16

Bowling Standings.....17

Women's Football Standings.....17

Q-LETTERS

Sam Catalano.....5

Q-MUNITY

Breaking Barriers.....6

Local News.....7

Q-VOICE

Brokeback Ponderings.....18

Q-CENTER

Freedom Fair Day.....8

Dan Roth and the Marriage Bigots...19

Q-NATION

National News With Attitude.....9

Q-AFTERDARK

Reno's Gay Bar Scene.....20

Review [2] the Movie.....21

Q-THEATRE

Lambda Players.....11

Q-EVENTS:

Calendar of Events.....22

Q-FEATURE

Faces of Pride.....12 & 13

Q-MOVIES

Swanner & Judd.....14

Top Five Pride Flicks.....15

Q-BUSINESS

Business Directory.....23

Classifieds Form.....23

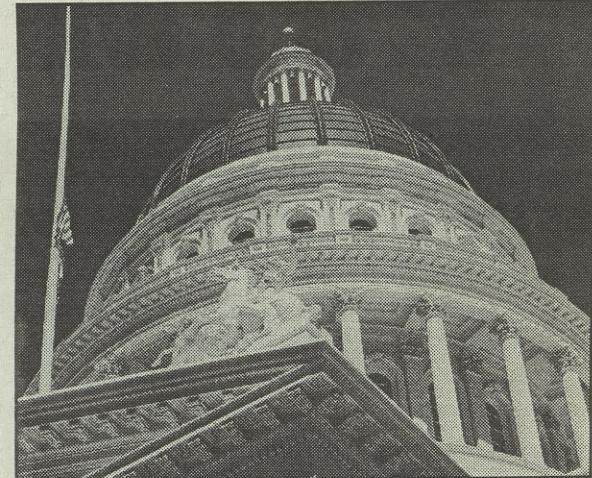
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Photo by: June Vargas

**COVER PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JUNE VARGAS**

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From the Publisher

Larry McFall

Some people still refer to Sacramento as a cowtown. Perhaps any city, no matter how big, would be considered a cowtown when its sister city is San Francisco. But when ya think about it, we actually have it pretty good, and in some ways better than The City. In fact, the Advocate recently listed Sacramento among the top ten gay-friendliest cities in the US.

Being raised in Flagstaff, Arizona, I can personally testify to the amount of gay freedom we have here in Sacramento, my home of the past 7 years. I was reminded of this recently when I attended the monthly meeting of the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, which meets at Konicom on "J" Street the third Tuesday of every month. The group helps to promote and network for gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses in and around Sacramento.

While I was there I saw many familiar faces from the community and, enjoyably, just as many new folks I hadn't had the pleasure of meeting before. It was at this meeting that I got the same feeling I get every year at the Freedom Fair when I look out over the sea of people and see first hand the true scope and diversity of our community. It is in these rare moments that all the crap the right wing, religion-based political machine slings at us each and every day melts away and I know with complete certainty that we, collectively, can overcome and one day live as accepted, first-class citizens. Those moments are when I truly understand that community is more than just a group of people with a common bond—it is a family. The Sacramento LGBT community is my family, and one of which I am very proud.

Just the other day, I was at a function for the Sacramento Valley Bears, an organization I have been part of since I moved here, and I overheard someone commenting that there was nothing to do in Sacramento if you were gay. I was so surprised to hear this, I began talking to him, telling him about our community. As I was speaking, even I was surprised about how many resources and outlets of both entertainment and community service we have.

From the Lambda Center to the Open Book, Uptown Studios to Being Gay Today, from the Lambda Players to the Men's Chorus and True Colors Women's Chorus, there is always something happening. We have our own Film Festival, our own phonebook, we even have our own Library!

Our community's commitment to helping one another is amazing. The Lambda Community Center hosts any number of support and social groups, so many that they are running out of meeting room. We also have a large number of self-supporting and non-profit organizations including the Sacramento Valley Bears, Sacramento Valley Leathermen, Breaking Barriers, CARES, PFLAG and the Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association.

Not enough? How about both the Stonewall Democrats of Greater Sacramento and the Log Cabin republicans? Our own basketball and bowling leagues? The Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire (CGNIE)? In the last decade, CGNIE has raised over a half million dollars for local organizations in the Sacramento Valley. Every year the Sacramento Valley Bears and the Ken Day Fund raise over \$25,000 locally and over \$125,000 regionally for northern California charitable organizations. The Leathermen host a pancake breakfast the first Sunday of each month and donate the proceeds to several different organizations that in turn use those funds to better our community. And this is just the tip of the Sacramento LGBT iceberg.

Now you tell me this isn't one damn amazing community! Doesn't sound like a cowtown anymore, does it? At the Q-Ragg, we're just one of you. We're just members of this community out having fun, lending a helping hand where we can, and tryin' to help Sacramento know and celebrate itself a little better. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this community. Together we can do anything!

From the Editor

Matthew Burlingame

"TO AVOID CRITICISM: DO NOTHING, SAY NOTHING, BE NOTHING." —UNKNOWN

I have to admit I was a little apprehensive when Larry approached me about being the editor for the Q-Ragg. "Everyone keeps referring me to you," he told me. I have known Larry for a couple years—the years after I took a step back from journalism to pursue theatre. So, I knew Larry was unfamiliar with my previous reputation of being an offensive person. Wait—let me rephrase that—for being a person who manages to offend people...on a regular basis. Ever since I can remember, without even trying, I have been labeled in big red block lettering a "shit-stirrer." I imagine if I had had a high school yearbook I would have been voted "most likely to offend."

"You just can't keep your mouth shut," said a friend of mine. It's true. When someone tells a racist joke I can't help but ask if they want me to get them some sheets. Or when someone goes into a lengthy justification of why they desire an open relationship, I just smile and cut to the chase, "You mean you're a slut." I don't seem to be able to help it. Phrases like "just go along with it" and "just accept it" send shivers of rebellion up my spine.

I do remember the first time I was consciously aware of my tendency to offend (or at least shock) those around me. As most young people do, I wrote poetry. Yet while others were writing about flowers and rolling hills and boring winter analogies, I was scripting the more intense feelings of the human condition, which, of course, mixed various references of sexuality and religion. I took my work to a local bookstore on poetry night and unleashed my gnashing beasts on listeners...and it scared them. They applauded the flowers and rolling hills and looked at me like I was about to pull out an Uzi and gun them all down. OK, I'll admit that maybe a poem about masturbating while committing suicide is a bit hard for some people to handle, but even the group of Goth punks backed away from me.

As I hit 20 I began trying to jump-start my writing career (after all, I planned to have my first Pulitzer by 22). I submitted a number of works to various magazines but received rejection letters one after the other. So how does a burgeoning writer make it in the world? What's a way to make good money by writing and still have time to write a Pulitzer quality novel? "Porn," my cousin suggested. I wrote a few adult stories, had them approved by my more-discerning porn addict friends and sent them off to publishers. They came back with a polite letter that started off, "Your stories are fantastic!" My heart raced! They liked me! I was going to get paid for writing! "But," the note continued, "your stories would get us banned in Canada." Tie one guy to a bed and suddenly a whole country is flipping out. I actually had one story published which of course led to my being told I now could never be considered a "real writer." Whatever.

A few years later I started writing for an independent newspaper. It started simply enough, humorous antidotes about my family, growing up gay—nothing controversial. But then that "choices" thing started happening again and sure enough, I dived head first into the pool by calling the three leading gay magazines irresponsible for their lack of running safe sex and condom related advertising. Two of the magazines wrote me telling me what a naughty gay boy I was for apparently having my own opinion.

After that, I decided to steer away from controversial topics. After all, who was I to be telling people what I thought? As I was often told, "Opinions are like assholes: everyone has one and everyone thinks the others stink." Always the challenger I shot back, "And some people like to stick their face in other's opinions every chance they get."

I wrote an innocent piece about how lesbians were often ignored by major gay media. More letters. Was there nothing I could say without pissin' someone off? Obviously not. Everywhere I turned there was always someone to tell me I was causing trouble. Then came the day when the editor refused to print my column, one I wrote specifically trying to not go against the gay grain. "It's too offensive."

As I moved on, I was introduced to the wonderful world of politics. Yup, kinda like introducing a match to nitroglycerin. After several explosions I made my war-weary way to college and into the realm of the straight world. I was sure to fit into it some way--after all, college is the time for activism

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Happy "Marriage" Day!

By Sam Catalano

Hopefully by the time you read this, it will be done. On May 20th, the following will have occurred: the end of Western Civilization, the end of America's moral standing (not that Emperor Bush hasn't done that already), the deathnell of all that's good and moral and Christian about the USA, the destruction of the "Holy and Sacred Institution of Marriage," the final collapse of the family, the overthrow of 6000 years of history, the final victory of human secularism, and yada yada yada.

As a gay man I am so thrilled that my ability to love and now marry another person (who happens to be of the same sex as I am) and to seek the 1400 federal and state benefits that our society graciously gives to heterosexual couples, has had such a gigantic affect! Wow, do I feel butch! Such power. And all because I want to support, care for, provide for—need I say the word—love another human being. I am soooo sorry that Western Civilization, morality, family and marriage are all so delicate and fragile that I have the ability to destroy them all. I know it must gall so many folks out there who have no problem giving those 1400 benefits to heterosexual convicted imprisoned serial killers and adulterers and wife beaters when they get married that they will now have to give those benefits to me as I destroy Western Civilization.

Oh wait, it's now June and Western Civilization has not collapsed. Heteros are still getting married and having families. Love survives. Only now the future looks brighter for thousands of gay and lesbian couples and their children. Oops. It looks like some folks have committed the sin of baring false witness. I'm sure all the homo-haters are disappointed the world didn't end but too bad. Let the sun shine...

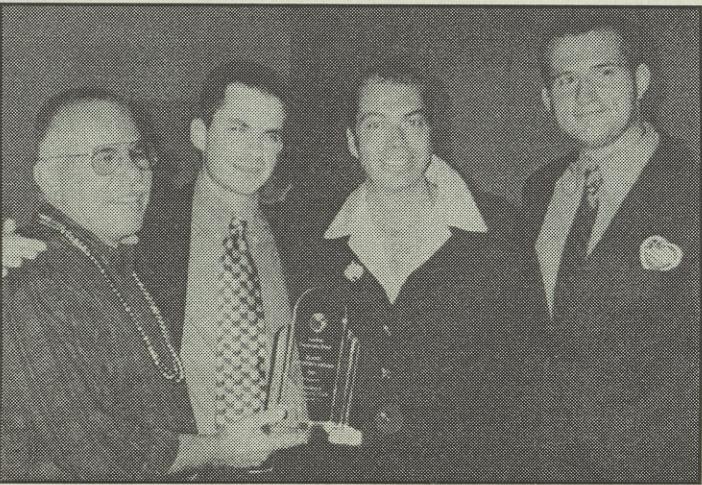


Photo: Larry McFall

Q-LETTERS

Sam Catalano, Dan Roth, Derrick Lawson and Steve Hansen accept a Lambda Award on behalf of the Stonewall Democratic Club

Letters to the editor can be sent to: Q-RAGG Magazine P.O. Box 162699, Sacramento, CA 95816-2699 or emailed to: editor@q-ragg.com Please include your name, return address and phone number for verification purposes.

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Breaking Through

By June Vargas

Tucked away on a quiet corner at 20th and V Streets downtown, there is a little office filled with people who are doing big things for the Sacramento community. And they need more volunteers so they do even more.

Located in that office is Breaking Barriers Community Services Center, a non-profit agency which has provided services and outreach to the area since 1995. Their mission, according to program director John Rambo, is "to coordinate a community response to catastrophic illness, and we do that by recruiting, training and coordinating volunteers to help people living with catastrophic illness and to do disease education and prevention in the community."

Basically, Breaking Barriers provides four areas of services and outreach to the community. First, they provide direct services to clients

Advocate Project (SNAP), that is working with matching breast cancer survivors up with newly diagnosed women."

In the first year, Rambo says, Breaking Barriers served 25 clients. Now, they have a yearly clientele of approximately 400. Like many non-profit agencies, Breaking Barriers has had to deal with funding issues, which, Rambo says, is one reason that they are in need of volunteers. "The grant funding dried up for volunteer services, and so we haven't had a full-time person to work on volunteer recruitment and training for a year and a half, and that's why we're seeing this decline in volunteers," he explains, "that's why we need to get the word out to the community that there's still a need [for volunteers]."

Rambo says he wants the volunteer program to evolve into something that will make Breaking Barriers belong to the community itself. "Rather than paying people to go out and do services to the community, I want to train

Breaking Barriers has served the Sacramento HIV/AIDS population in Sacramento for almost 10 years, a look back and a look ahead reveals the never ending need for willing, dependable volunteers.

go so they can stay healthy." For those who want to volunteer but can't meet the Transit Partners' Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm schedule, there are many other things to do on the weekends, such as house and yard work.

Why do people become volunteers? Rambo says there are many different reasons. "Some people are new in town, or maybe they've gone through a breakup or another change in their life, and are looking to form a new social circle. Or, some people volunteer with us for a short period of time because they're working on a class project for school, so they get knowledge." Many volunteers, Rambo says, are in recovery, and volunteering helps enhance and sustain their recovery. "I got into this because of my own recovery," he says, "I wanted to do something." Thirteen years later, he's still at Breaking Barriers because it "brought meaning to my life."

Just as people volunteer for different reasons, Rambo explains, they all get something

"I want to train people in the community to go out and provide services to the community. That's where we're heading—we're building on that strength." —John Rambo

Photo by: June Vargas

such as transportation, food delivery services and household help. Next, they connect the homeless with services such as medical treatment and housing referrals. The community development aspect works to raise awareness, find resources, recruit volunteers and, finally, the education and prevention area helps to provide education and testing for people with HIV. The services at Breaking Barriers, says Rambo, are not limited to persons with AIDS or HIV.

"Yes, we have outreach programs for HIV prevention that includes HIV testing. We also do outreach to find new cases of HIV. And, we have a program called the Support Navigator

people in the community to go out and provide services to the community. That's where we're heading—we're building on that strength."

Currently, the organization has an active volunteer crew of approximately 85 people ranging in age from 17 to 73, but, Rambo says, about 200 active volunteers are needed in order to meet the proper level of service for their clients. Right now, volunteers are especially needed in the Transit Partners Program, in which people use their own cars to drive people living with HIV and breast cancer to doctor's visits, grocery stores, social services—in other words, Rambo says, "to get them where they need to

different out of their experiences. "The rewards are really individualized, but you get the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped someone in need, improve their life or maintain their health and you just get the satisfaction of knowing that at least a part of your life means something bigger."

Breaking Barriers is located at 2020 V Street. If you are interested in volunteering, or are in need of services, call 447-2437, or log on to www.breakingbarriers-sacramento.org

Open Book's Larry Bailey Selected for NCIBA Board

The Northern California Independent Booksellers Association (NCIBA) has selected Larry Bailey, one of the owners of The Open Book, Ltd., to be on its Board of Directors. NCIBA is a trade organization dedicated to supporting, nurturing and promoting independent retail bookselling in California and has over 600 members, including more than 300 booksellers. Baily and partner Ron Grantz's bookstore have been a part of the Sacramento literary community since 1996.

—by Mike Shanahan

Mark Ferreira Becomes 'Piano Man' at FACES

Now that American Idol has finished for the season, where can you go to get your fix of new talent? Well search no more. FACES has started an open mike night on Tuesday (to fit nicely in that Idol time slot) between 6pm and 9pm. Mark Ferreira will be there to accompany folks from behind the baby grand in the front room of FACES. "Most people want to do standards or show tunes," Mark mentions, "I have a selection of my own music books available to look through or people can bring their own music." Of course with it being a FACES you do have to be 21 years old to participate, "you're not required to buy alcohol but you are more than welcome to buy the piano player alcohol," Mark jokes. "Once things really get going we're

hoping to have a competition with Judges and prizes." So Tuesday nights there's no reason to sit home longing for Ryan Seacrest, (well, maybe a little reason) Mark will be there waiting for that next great singer to show their stuff. Remember, if you don't want to sing it's OK to just watch. For more information on the open mike night you can check the FACES website or come by and see for yourself what talent Sacramento has to offer up.

— by Tom Swanner

Valley Knights Plan Yearly Crawdad Feed

The Valley Knights Motorcycle Club (VKMC) is well known for invading towns. this time they are invading the Isleton Crawdad Festival is an annual food fair hosted by Isleton, a sleepy Delta town located in-between San Francisco and Sacramento on Hwy 160. Every year VKMC attends the event in full force. this year will be no different. Anyone who wants to attend the event can logon to valleyknights.org for more details.

—by Mike Shanahan

10th Under the Rainbow Festival a Success

June 2 marked the 10th annual Under The Rainbow event at UC Davis. The gay and lesbian student organization's annual event featured Mark Leno, California State Assemblyman, sponsored by the Chancellor's Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,

Transgender and Intersex Issues. Organizers of the event were pleased with its outcome and are already looking forward to next year.

— by Matthew Burlingame

SVL Leather Contest is at Hand

Pull on your Leather and prepare meet Sacramento's hottest Leather men vying for the title of Sacramento LeatherSir and Sacramento Leatherboy. There is a full weekend of fun planned starting with a Meet & Greet with the contestants at The Bolt on Friday night from 9pm to midnight, so when Saturday night rolls around you'll be ahead of the game when you attend the contest at Headhunters. The best of Sacramento's Leather community strut their stuff with the LeatherSir contestants performing their wild fantasies with the help from the Leatherboy contestants. Sunday will be the Victory Brunch at FACES coinciding with SVL's regular monthly event. For more info on this event or any SVL event logon to SVLclub.org.

— by Tom Swanner



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June 5th @ The Freedom Fair

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Q-MUNITY



Lambda Community Center

Sacramento, California

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2004 Freedom Fair

This year's fair said to be bigger than ever before

First held in 1984, the Lambda Freedom Fair is the oldest and largest LGBT pride event in Sacramento. This year is the 20th annual celebration of this event and will prove to be bigger and better than any before. The Freedom Fair in the past several years has been a tremendous success, bringing out thousands of attendees and hundreds of volunteers to support the Lambda Center cause and the Sacramento community.

The Lambda Freedom Fair is the primary source of income for the Lambda Community Center. All monies raised at the event go to support the Center's operating budget for the following year. This allows them to provide resources and programs to the community.

The 20th Annual Lambda Freedom Fair will be held Sat., June 5, 2004 at Southside Park from 10am-6pm. This year they will have the pool open from Noon-4pm. They will, as last year, again have roving entertainment in the form of mimes and clowns with balloons, a game midway, action rides, and three entertainment stages.

**ADMISSION: \$7.00 PER PERSON
(CHILDREN UNDER 12 ARE FREE)**



Courtesy Photo: Gayiel Von

Sacramento cabaret diva
Gayiel Von
will perform
at Noon

Guest performer Thea
Austin will
perform at
4:15pm



Courtesy Photo: LCC website

FREEDOM FAIR 2004 SCHEDULE

10:30am	SVL Color Guard National Anthem
11:10am	True Colors Women's Chorus
11:30am	Invocation-Pastor Jerry Woodward
12:00noon	True Colors Women's Chorus
12:30pm	Capital City Squares
1:00pm	Gayiel Von & Witness This!
1:20pm	Sacramento Dancesport
2:00pm	Cheer San Francisco w/ Sac. Spirit
2:30pm	Roni & The Flight
2:50pm	CGNIE Production
3:30pm	Cheer San Francisco w/ Sac. Spirit
4:15pm	Sacramento Taiko Dan
4:45pm	Shann Carr (Stand-up Comedy)
	Thea Austin
	Out & Proud, The Essentials

LAMBDA COMMUNITY CENTER MEETING SCHEDULE

Sunday

WOMEN'S COMING OUT GROUP 6PM-7:30PM

Open to women of all ages, at any stage of coming out. WomenComingOut@lambdasac.org

Monday

MEN'S COMING OUT GROUP, 6PM

Open to men of all ages investigating "coming out" issues. mencomingout@lambdasac.org

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP, 6:30PM

Explore gay-related issues in a supportive, non-judgmental environment. mensgroup@lambdasac.org

OVER THE RAINBOW GROUP OF NA, 8PM

A 12-step program for men and women trying to overcome a narcotics addiction. www.na.org

LAMBDA LAW REFERRAL SERVICE, 5:30PM

Wednesday

WOMYN ON WEDNESDAY, 7PM

For socialization and to discuss issues that Lesbian and bisexual women may find very important. womensgroup@lambdasac.org

FIRST STAGES, 1ST & 3RD WEDS., 8-9PM

Support/discussion group for youth 18-29 who are recently diagnosed with HIV. firststages@lambdasac.org

Friday

BREAKING BARRIERS/LAMBDA YOUTH GROUP, 8PM

Fun, educational, and thought provoking discussions that tackle topics facing queer youth today. youthgroup@lambdasac.org

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- \$1 shots
- \$2 margaritas
- \$3 frozen margaritas

National headlines

Gay Marriage, Iraq and Tammy Faye top the national news in May/June

By Mike Shanahan

Q-NATION

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Gay marriages continues to dominate the news at a national level. In Newton Mass. The AP reports Kate Brodoff, a freshman in high school, has found herself playing the teacher. It seems that the 15-year-old girl's lesbian parents were plaintiffs in the lawsuit that led to the legalization of gay marriage and were among the first couples to get married, so Kate has been explaining her insider's perspective to classmates at Newton South High School. "Some make assumptions. They think that marriage and civil unions are the same," Kate said. "I try to tell them the actual facts of the case."

Seems Mass. Gov. Mitt Romney is continuing his petty behavior, this time attempting to order clerks not to let nonresident same-sex couples marry with an interpretation of a law from 1913 barring couples from marrying in Massachusetts if their union would not be recognized in their home state. Officials in Provincetown, Somerville, Springfield and Worcester openly defied acting on the Governor's bitchplay. After 6 months of failing to block the court-ordered marriage rights, Mittie had not only lost the battle, he had lost several points in the polls.

The wedding cake isn't even frozen and already the divorce talk is beginning to surface, being called a benefit of gay marriage. Apparently the only reason we want marriage rights is so we can take half of the other person's stuff when we get divorced. Lisa Leff of the AP sited that, "because the unions were not legally binding, gay couples have had few protections when they split and have had to rely on the inconsistent mercy of judges to obtain alimony, parental rights or a stake in the couple's finances." When children are involved, courts in liberal-leaning states such as have been increasingly willing to apply the principles of divorce laws to same-sex breakups, but in right-wing dominated states, judges will often ignore even detailed domestic-partner contracts.

Still getting' his political groove on, the Methuselah-esque Pope John Paul II decided to urge his minions to make a stronger commitment to the defense of marriage. John Paul went on to say that there are "some who appear to lack a proper understanding of the intrinsically religious dimension of this covenant." Huh? John Paul has also urged authorities to stop approving gay marriages and told U.S. clergy that the Church needs to be more supportive of families and their children. Many of them pledged to step up their hands-on approach to defending family values.

The infamous drag performer wrongful death lawsuit has been settled and, of course the terms are not being disclosed. The lawsuit was brought by the mother of the victim, Nizah Morris, 47, who was born a man but lived as a woman. The attorney for the case, Lee Carpenter, said her client was pleased with the settlement but will not be satisfied until the killer is found.

Gay Icon, Tammy Faye (Bakker) Messner, known for being the first (and one of the only) televangelist to acknowledge the AIDS crisis when it first started, is losing her battle with cancer, say insiders. Tammy Faye, who founded the PTL with her then husband ex-com Jim Bakker, climbed slowly to gay icon status in recent years, from her work on a talk show with openly gay cohost Jim J. Bullock, to the documentary The Eyes of Tammy Faye, which was embraced by the gay community. Insiders say it may be a matter of weeks, or days.

Religious-wrongers are once again placing gays at the head of the blame table. But this time it's not for unraveling the moral fibers of the family...this time, we're doing it to American fighting forces. Apparently all this Queer Eye for the Straight guy and Equal Rights crap we keep shoving down their throats has so confused our troops that they were felt driven to torture Iraqi prisoners at the now infamous Abu Ghraib prison. Guys, c'mon, that's really reaching. Next we're going to be blamed for the budget crisis. It does teach American troops one valuable lesson, however: leave the camera home next time.

PAUL RUDNICK'S
The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told

Directed by Vada Russell



STARRING

Stephen Abate • Ken Figeroid • Kimi Negrete • Jen Blanks • Kim Waibel
Thomas Bach • Travis Mullins • Georgann Wallace • Sandra McCord

Tickets

\$13, \$10 Senior (over 55), SARTA
Students with ID, groups of 9 or more.

Reservation line: 916.484.4742

Website: www.lambdplayers.com
Tickets available at The Beat Records
1700 J Street, Downtown Sacramento

Showtimes:

8pm Fri. June 18, 25, June 2

8pm Sat. June 19, 26 July 3

24th Street theater, 2791 24th St.
Box office 7pm, Res. released 7:45
No refunds, exch. 24 hrs. in advance

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**another fine
Lambda
Players
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Outward

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**Sport's Leisure
Vacations**

Q-RAGG

A Fabulous Time For All

LAMBDA PLAYERS ANNOUNCE NEW SHOW AND NEW SEASON

Curtain, go. Lights, go. Oceans, go. First man, go. Second Man, go. First homosexual sex. Go. First simultaneous orgasm, go. If playwright Paul Rudnick had his way, these would be the opening lines to the Bible—well, at least the gay and lesbian Bible. It would be followed by the first lesbian couple, the first vegetarian dinner, and the 'second coming' would happen soon after.

Welcome to playwright Paul Rudnick's politically incorrect and, at first glance, strictly stereotypical gay world. *The Most Fabulous Story Ever told*, a biblical spoof on Christian-

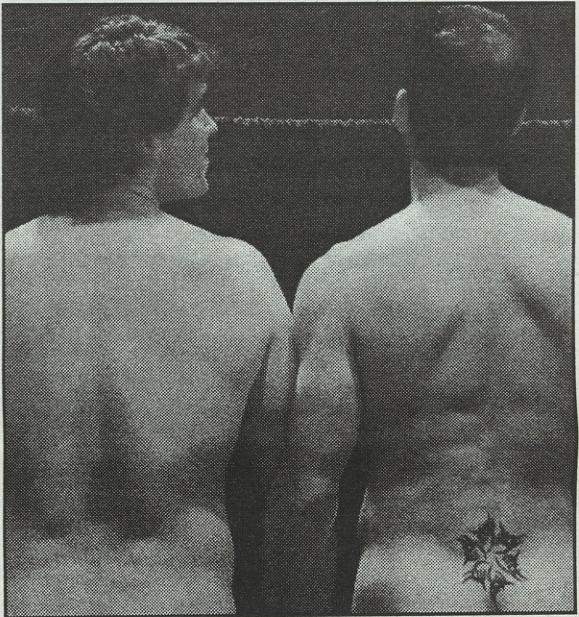


Photo by June Vargas

Steve (Ken Figeroid) and Adam (Stephen Abate) look over the fence of Eden, wondering what's on the other side.

Judeo religious history, may seem trite, superficial, campy or just another way to put pretty boys on stage naked. It is, however, none of

these things...and all of these things. That's what makes it one of his greatest works. With his usual suitcase full of rib-tickling jokes and zany merriment, Rudnick has invented a God-like, high-tech stage manager (Kimberley A. Waibel) to act as a guide through the cycle of life seen through his overly-candid lens. After creation and history's first lovers, Adam (Stephen Abate) and Eve—oops, actually, it's Steve (Ken Figeroid)—we meet two of the most endearing and amusing Lesbians to have sprung from a writer's pen, Jane (Kim Negrete) and Mabel (Jen Blanks), also making their appearance in Eden. In Rudnick's Eden, same sex love is the "norm" in this revision of the Old Testament.

While the subject matter has made the deeply faithful right-wing actually moved to protest productions of this play, neither the premise nor the work itself is anti-faith or even anti-Christian. It does not answer the eternal questions, but it will leave you with a different (and incredibly valuable) new framework in which to ask them. The Lambda Players, Sacramento's LGBT theatrical troupe, close out their 15th anniversary season with this masterpiece for the stage.

"It's incredibly funny," says director Vada Russell, "Sometimes we have to halt rehearsals because we are laughing so hard. I am so glad I am directing this show and was fortunate to get such a talented cast."

The cast includes a number of veteran Lambda Players' performers including Thomas Bach (The Coming Out Party, Love! Valour! Compassion!) Kimberley A. Waibel (Twilight of the Golds), Ken Figeroid (Lisbon

Trivita), and Stephen Abate (Love! Valour! Compassion!, The Sum of Us).

With ticket sales reported to be high even weeks before the shows opening night, and the succession of sold out shows from the Lambda Players' past season, audiences are guaranteed an evening of top quality entertainment.

On the heels of the production comes the announcement for the theatre company's 16th Season lineup which includes an appearance by Kate Clinton at the Crest Theatre in November and a four week run of the Rocky Horror Show next June. Also being brought to the stage is del Shores' newest play Southern Baptist Sissies, a run of Psycho Beach Party—one of the companies few repeat productions—

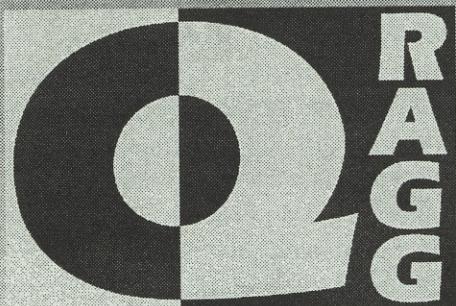


Photo by June Vargas

Jane (Kim Negrete) and Mabel (Jen Blanks) enjoy a quiet moment in Eden—before Adam messes everything up.

and a new work, *Just Us* girls by local playwright T. Swanner.

"It's important to us to give our audiences amazing entertainment," says technical director George Hansen III. "We've shown this past year what we can do, but I promise you, you ain't seen nothin' yet."



JULY 3, 2004

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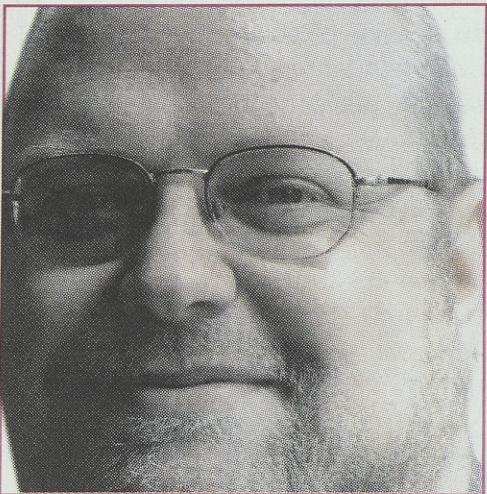
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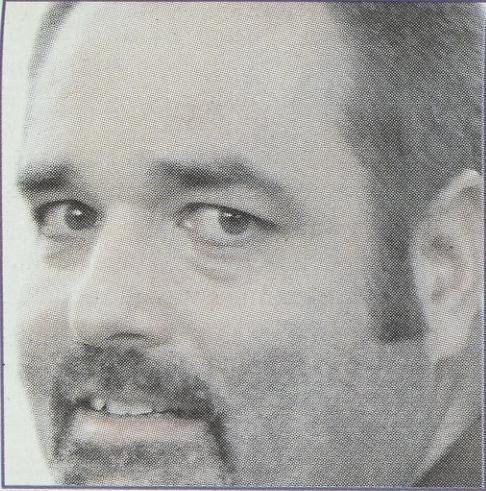
Q-THEATRE

What accomplishments in our com...



Larry McFall

Actually I think starting up this paper is the most proud time for me. I'm very excited about what I'm doing and in trying to build a stronger community and to bring the community closer together.

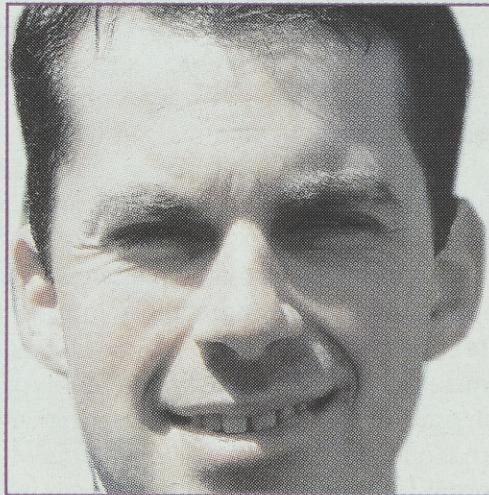


Doug Wilson

The Sacramento Valley Bears do a lot of things for the community—we try and promote that. Right now we're going to try and put together a bear calendar...that way we can promote the bear community here in town. So I'd probably say running the bear community to the best ability I can.

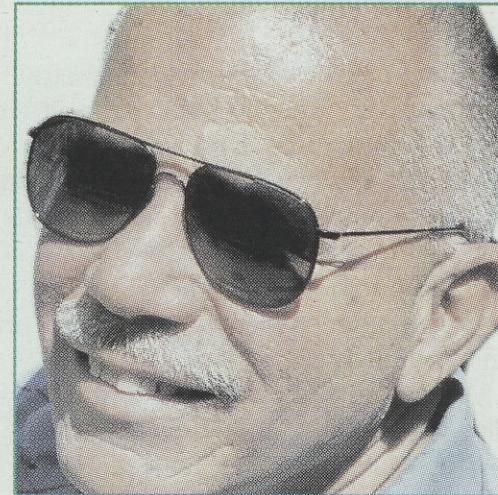
I am most proud that the gay and lesbian community has united behind the Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento, which works to elect qualified open gay and lesbians to local office and support candidates who support equal rights for the LGBT community. In less than two years, Stonewall has grown to over 300 members and is the largest Democratic Club in Sacramento County.

Daniel Roth



The accomplishment in the Sacramento LGBT community of which I'm most proud is the involvement of its members. From organizations like the Stonewall Democratic Club, Sacramento Lawyers for the Equality of Gays and Lesbians, and the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce to those such as CGNIE, the Men's Social Group, Frontrunners, and Capital City Squares, the members of the Sacramento gay and lesbian community are involved in large numbers in legal, social, political, and charitable activities known to ourselves and the community-at-large that we do exist, we do contribute, and we do make a difference."

Marc Koenigsberg



Sam Catalano

The support the LGBT community gives to so many groups and causes and issues.



Marghe Covino

There are so many things to be proud about. The resurgence of activism in our community. Our strong reciprocal alliances with other communities. The Stonewall Democratic Club. A thriving Rainbow Chamber of Commerce. A Court that works...hard!!! Leathermen that cook!! The Pink Pistols, Breaking Barriers, the Lambda Center - This Freedom Fair!!! Don't even ask me to pick just one thing!! Even the things I've listed are just a fraction of the things and people who should be mentioned. The Town Crier, Michael Johnston, Sam Catalano, Will Bennett and Robert Bequette, Matthew Burlingame - the list is endless... Come to think of it the greatest accomplishment IS the LGBT community in Sacramento the fact that we're here, we've survived and we're on the move!!!

community are you most proud of?

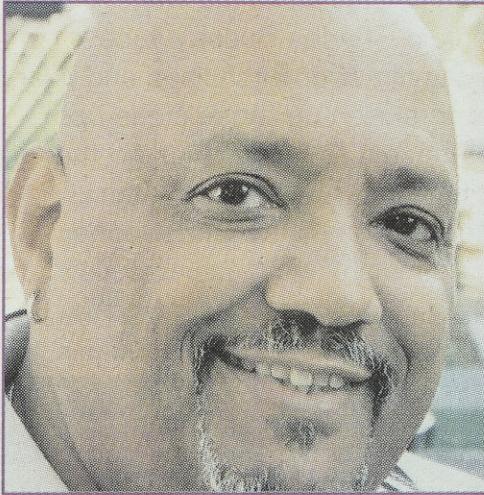
The accomplishment I am most proud of is to participate in the transformation of the Gay and Lesbian business community as President of the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce.

David Larson



Iwould have to say the resurrection of the Lambda Community Center. There's a resurgence, a new buzz in the community. We have an 11-member board filled with diversity—it's what the community needs. We're putting the word out and the community is responding. We're taking care of our youth and looking in the future for senior housing. [The Lambda Community Center] is busting at the seams and now we're working with the city and the mayor to get a bigger space, [to create] a synergy of all services in one space. My personal focus is diversity in the community—the Black voice, the Latino voice, the transgender voice, and that's been lacking."

I G Gonsalves



John Rambo

The thing I'm actually most proud of is my seven-year relationship with my partner, Robert Sharp. He supports me in all things. [In the community] I guess [the thing I'm proud of is] the volunteer program here—getting so many people involved in working in their community. I've seen some of our volunteers go on to really great things."



Gayiel Von

Before we can expect equality from the mainstream, we must learn to embrace the diversity within our own culture. My dream is one community, one world, one person at a time.

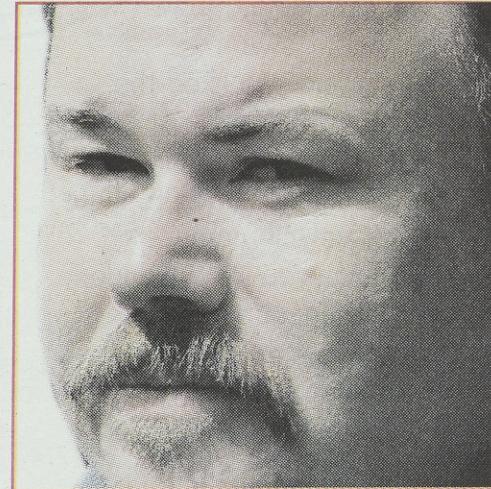
I am most proud of the bridges that we are building between our community and others like Asian Pacific Islanders, and Latinas. We cannot accomplish any of our long term goals without our friends in other communities.

Tina Reynolds



For me, it has to be the Lambda Players. I started with them because they were producing a play I wrote and I liked the organization so much I wanted to become part of it and help it grow. I think the accomplishments the company has made the last few years have been amazing. I think being one of the only LGBT theater groups in all of California is kind of groundbreaking in a sense. So, yeah, there's a lot to be really proud of with the Lambda Players."

Tom Swanner



'Die, Mommie, Die!' is a total piece of crap



BRIAN JUDD: So let's review this piece of crap.

Tom Swanner: Crap? I don't think it's a good idea to contaminate the review with your negativity right off the bat. You usually wait till your victim is limping before you pounce for the kill.

BRIAN: Why wait with this one? The movie was so bad, I'd rather pull a Tanya Harding and bash its legs in from the get go.

Tom: Brian and I are going to review Die Mommie Die coming to DVD in June. Did you want to describe the film or should I?

BRIAN: Why don't you describe it so I don't have to think about it?

Tom: Fine. An ex-pop singer, Angela, (Charles Busch) and her lover (Jason Priestly) kill her much-hated husband. Then some other stuff happens and the movie is over. Seems like I'm forgetting something.

BRIAN: It's easy to forget. But we should add that Angela has two children

played by Natasha Lyonne (*Kate & Leopold*, *Party Monster*) and Stark Sands.

The son is gay and there are plenty of standard Busch homophobic remarks made throughout the movie. Does this spark any memories?

Tom: The movie was so slow all I remember was that Jason Priestly's character was supposed to have a big dick and I kept waiting to see a *Boogie Nights* ending. It didn't happen. what a let down

BRIAN: I thought you said you liked the movie?

Tom: I liked what the film was trying to do. I thought they did well at capturing the late 50's, early 60's star vehicle camp.

BRIAN: I thought maybe you liked Charles Busch's drag performance; a drag queen with five o'clock shadow trying to capture Joan Crawford and Bette Davis.

Tom: I thought it was hysterical, but they over did it on those extreme close ups. Every time that camera zoomed in on Busch's face contorted in some painful expression, I laughed for the wrong rea-

sons. He may have been ready for his close-up, but viewers won't be.

BRIAN: I'll agree that I liked what the film was trying to do, and if this was the first of its genre I'd be more forgiving, but cheesy special effects and melodramatic language don't automatically make a film funny. As far as that five o'clock shadow goes, I've seen prettier drag queens in line for 'last call' at the Merc.

Tom: Amen.

BRIAN: What really got to me was the constant references to homosexuals as "deviants, mental cripples, and fags" a little can be funny, but he just kept harping on it.

Tom: It's a common theme his writing.

He must really hate fact he's a fag.

BRIAN: Yup. Charles, honey, I think it's time to see someone about that little self-loathing issue.

Tom: The acting was passable at best. The supporting cast was better than Busch. His Diva grandstanding close-ups looked like something off the *Carol Burnett Show*.

BRIAN: I agree. Jason Priestly was OK, Sands was cute, but his acting flaccid. Lyonne has done better, but Frances Conroy (*Six Feet Under*) offered the best performance—and that's not saying much—she did what she could with the material, but you can't turn shit into sugar. And what was up with all those close-ups!

Tom: Thank you!

BRIAN: It looks like Busch is trying to please the wrong people. He wants straight people to love him, and he thinks gay people will follow just because he's gay. Wrong. He should have made this movie for us and let the straight folks find it. He forgot who his audience is.

Tom: I don't want to say I 100% agree with you there, but I think your answer is as good as we're going to get in explaining why this movie was so bad.

BRIAN: So now we've come to the point where we rate the film. Now we rate our films a little differently than most do. Here we don't rate how good a film is by giving them stars; here we rate how bad a flick is by giving Bitchslaps to the movie and the deserving people involved with making the film. A classic movie like *Gone With The Wind* would get a rating of no Bitchslaps. A movie like *Gigli* would get five Bitchslaps...and a Black Eye for good measure. I am going to give *Die, Mommie, Die* a rating of four and a 1/2 bitch slaps. There were some good gags sprinkled through out the movie, but otherwise the story and the pacing make me want to throw a drink in Charles Busch's face.

Tom: I give the film four Bitchslaps and a jar of Vaseline to soften up those close-ups.

BRIAN: Well that's it for June. Pick up the Q-Ragg next time when we review Titan Video's *The Passion of the Christ-opher*.

Tom: Yeah, you wish!

Studio: Sundance Channel DVD Release: June 29, 2004 Run Time: 90 minutes

BITCHSLAP RATINGS

JUDD: • • • • 1/2 BITCH SLAPS

SWANNER: • • • • BITCH SLAPS

0 = GREAT • • • • • = CRAP

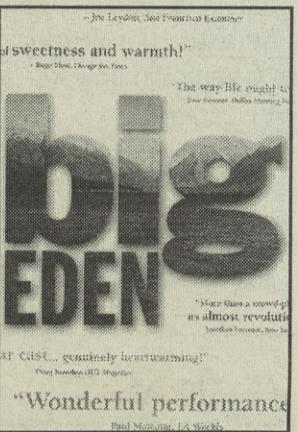
"Big Eden" is top Pride Romance

Swanner & Judd go head to head over their favorite gay pride movies

When we were asked to pick just five of our favorite gay movies we were really hard pressed for which ones to pick. We both think there are a lot of great films to choose from. So we broke them into categories and added a few honorable mentions. Do we have commitment problems or what?

Best Romantic Guy's Flick

Swanner: *Big Eden*. I know a lot of filmmakers have tried to make the great gay romantic comedy. Up to this point *Big Eden* has come the closest to earning that title. Frank Capra couldn't have made a better film. Some honorable mentions are *Trick*, *Broken Hearts Club*, *All over the Guy*, *Beautiful Thing*



Judd: *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*. I'm a sucker for films where the protagonist doesn't get what he wants. If I can't be happy, why should the man on the screen be happy? Plus Sean P. Hayes does an incredible job in this pre *Will & Grace* film. *Trick*: Two guys spending the whole night looking for a place to screw around and falling in love in the process. *Gag! All Over The Guy*—talk about your romanticized co-dependent relationships. Been there, done that, not nearly as fun as they made it look.

Best Romance Womyn's Flick

Swanner: *But I'm a Cheerleader*. Where do families send their lesbian and gay children to reform them? "Sexual redirection" school, that's where. Megan, our cheerleader heroine, is sent so she can become a "happy heterosexual". There are wonderful performances in this lower budget film. Also great are *It's in the Water*, *Late Bloomers*, *What's Cooking* and *Desert Hearts*

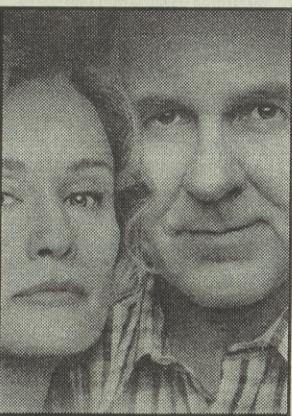


Judd: We have one we actually agree on! I really liked *But I'm a Cheerleader*. The story was good, it had great visuals and was witty and

funny. *What's Cooking* is a good movie, too, but I don't know if it was the story or all the great long shots over the food that did it for me. I didn't care for *It's in the Water* and I've never seen *Late Bloomers* or *Desert Hearts*. Maybe if it were called "Dessert Hearts" I'd be more interested.

Best Gender Bender Flick

Swanner: *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. The first time I saw *Priscilla* was at one of those studio previews where you get the free passes. I had no idea what I was about to see. Although when I looked around the very empty theatre only to see "family" there, I had an idea I was in for something...very gay. Also great are *Girls Will Be Girls*, *Flawless*, *Soldier's Girl*, *Boys Don't Cry* and *Hedwig And The Angry Inch*.



Judd: *Normal*. I think this is my favorite gender film. The story was good, and I loved the soundtrack. *Priscilla* is a bit long, but good. I loved *Girls Will Be Girls*. *Hedwig* is OK, but the music was awful!

Best After Dark Flick

Swanner: *Bound*. Corky, a tough female ex-con and her lover Violet concoct a scheme to steal millions of stashed mob money and pin the blame on Violet's crooked boyfriend Caesar. This has got to be one of the hottest movies ever made. I may be a gay man, but after watching it, I don't think I could have wanted Gina Gershon more! Jennifer Tilly was really good in this film but Gershon created a role that was sexy and smart and it's no wonder she became a Lesbian icon. Besides all the sex, the film has a great story and with brilliant direction the film became an instant classic. Runner ups are *Gods and Monsters*, *Out of Season*, *Relax*, *It's just Sex & Personal Best*



Judd: That's just like you to nominate a lesbian film for the "After Dark" category. The only movie you listed in this category that I've seen was *Gods and Monsters* and watching a senile Sir Ian McKellan molest Brandon Frasier was not hot for me.

Though, I think that this is the first movie where Brandon looked like a sexy man and not a goofy man-boy. I'm recommending *Y Tu Mama Tambien*. You want to talk about HOT? Two Latino guys at their sexual peak being seduced by an older (and slightly haggard) woman. Not to mention it's all in Spanish! *Muy Caliente!* ¡Viva Los Charolastras!

Best HIV/AIDS Focus Flick

Swanner: *Love! Valour! Compassion!* This film still stands up. Granted its only 7 years old but with the ever changing landscape of AIDS, the storyline is still affecting. Seven friends are in attendance for three weekends over a summer. There are multiple stories weaving in and out of this beautifully made film. Jason Alexander (taking over the role Nathan Lane originated) is the only actor here who wasn't in the original Broadway play so the performances are tight and complex. Still moving and always makes me cry. A few others: *Longtime Companion*, *Parting Glances*, *It's my Party*, and *Jeffrey*.



Judd: *It's My Party*. This was the most moving films of this genre I've seen. Unfortunately, in many AIDS themed flicks, if you've seen one you've seen them all. In *Jeffrey* I couldn't get past the "eye-roll" factor of having a very cute Michael T. Weiss chasing after a nebbish Steven Weber, who won't have sex with him because he's 'sworn it off.' Oh, please! The whole swearing off sex thing is always done by people who are having sex left and right! But the real question is why are all those people that the others are now *not* screwing—why aren't they screwing me?!

Swanner and Judd always welcome your comments and questions. You can contact them via email at: tswanner@q-ragg.com and bjudd@q-ragg.com

Q-MOVIE

Dispelling an Age Old Myth

Sports more and more are an integral part of the LGBT community

I always find it rather hilarious that in this day and age, there is still the conception that the LGBT community isn't interested in sports. I know that while in school I may not have wanted to participate in sports but that didn't mean I didn't like to watch.

This is my second year as a season ticket holder for the Monarchs, and I can tell you that Sacramento's LGBT community is very well represented at ARCO Arena and the sporting industry has to be looking at our community differently once they see who is filling their stadiums around the country (all they have to do is look at all those rainbow stickers in the parking lots).

And they have noticed. Have you noticed the commercials for sports drinks or for gyms memberships that show the fabulous men

and women dripping with sweat, grunting and flexing for our amusement. OK, maybe that's not just for us, but I think they know we're watching.

I've also noticed that Kings and Monarchs clothing is in abundance at any LGBT event these days. And have you noticed all the 49ers and Giants wear on the Castro? The time has arrived that we dispel the myth that a love of sports is indicative only of heterosexual males.

The Q-Ragg knows we care about sports and wants to let you know what's happening both in professional and local amateur sports. So whether it's our Gay Games athletes, our World Champion Sirens women's football team or our Champion bowling league, we'll let you know what's going on.

By Tom Swanner

Monarch's 2004 Schedule - Never miss a game!

MONARCHS 2004

	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	LOCAL TV	NAT. TV	RADIO
	MAY 22 SAT	MINNESOTA	7:00 PM	NEWS 10	--	KHTK-1140
	28 FRI	@ SAN ANTONIO	5:00 PM	NEWS 10	--	KHTK-1140
	30 SUN	@ HOUSTON	1:00 PM	--	--	KHTK-1140
	JUN 03 THU	LOS ANGELES	7:00 PM	--	--	KHTK-1140
	05 SAT	SEATTLE	7:00 PM	--	NBATV	KHTK-1140
	12 SAT	CONNECTICUT	7:00 PM	--	NBATV	KHTK-1140
	16 WED	@ INDIANA	5:00 PM	--	--	KHTK-1140
	17 THU	@ MINNESOTA	5:00 PM	--	--	KHTK-1140
	19 SAT	DETROIT	1:00 PM	--	ABC	KHTK-1140
	25 FRI	HOUSTON	7:00 PM	--	--	KHTK-1140
	27 SUN	PHOENIX	7:00 PM	--	--	KHTK-1140
	JUL 01 THU	NEW YORK	7:00 PM	--	--	KHTK-1140
	03 SAT	@ SEATTLE	7:00 PM	--	ESPN2	KHTK-1140
	06 TUE	@ NEW YORK	4:30 PM	--	--	KHTK-1140
	09 FRI	@ CONNECTICUT	4:00 PM	NEWS 10	--	KHTK-1140
	11 SUN	@ MINNESOTA	4:00 PM	--	--	KHTK-1140
	12 MON	@ DETROIT	4:30 PM	NEWS 10	NBATV	KHTK-1140
	15 THU	SEATTLE	11:30 AM	--	--	KHTK-1140
	17 SAT	@ LOS ANGELES	7:30 PM	NEWS 10	NBATV	KHTK-1140
	18 SUN	WASHINGTON	7:00 PM	--	--	KHTK-1140
	22 THU	PHOENIX	7:00 PM	--	--	KHTK-1140
	25 SUN	INDIANA	7:00 PM	--	--	KHTK-1140
	29 THU	LOS ANGELES	7:00 PM	--	ESPN2	KHTK-1140
	31 SAT	CHARLOTTE	7:00 PM	--	NBATV	KHTK-1140
	SEP 01 WED	@ SEATTLE	7:30 PM	--	NBATV	KHTK-1140
	02 THU	SAN ANTONIO	7:00 PM	--	--	KHTK-1140
	04 SAT	@ SAN ANTONIO	5:00 PM	--	--	KHTK-1140
	07 TUE	@ WASHINGTON	4:00 PM	NEWS 10	NBATV	KHTK-1140
	09 THU	@ CHARLOTTE	4:00 PM	--	--	KHTK-1140
	12 SUN	@ LOS ANGELES	1:00 PM	--	ABC	KHTK-1140
	16 THU	@ HOUSTON	5:00 PM	--	ESPN2	KHTK-1140
	18 SAT	HOUSTON	7:00 PM	--	--	KHTK-1140
	19 SUN	MINNESOTA	7:00 PM	--	--	KHTK-1140

Independent Women's Football League

Wester Conference Standlgs for 2004 Regular Season

* Standings at time of publication

Team	Qualifying Games			PCT	Non-Qualifying Games			Home	Road	DIV
	W	L	T		W	L	T			
• Pacific Northwest										
Tacoma Majestics	5	0	0	1.000	0	0	0	.000	1-0	4-0
Corvallis Pride	3	1	0	.750	0	0	0	.000	1-1	2-0
Portland Shockwave	2	3	0	.400	0	0	0	.000	2-2	0-1
Boise Xtreme	1	4	0	.200	0	1	0	.000	1-2	0-3
Eugene Edge	1	4	0	.200	0	0	0	.000	1-2	0-2
• Pacific West										
San Francisco Stingrayz	4	0	0	1.000	1	0	0	1.000	4-0	1-0
Sacramento Sirens	4	1	0	.800	1	0	0	1.000	4-0	1-1
Santa Rosa Scorchers	1	3	0	.250	1	0	0	1.000	1-1	1-2
• Pacific Southwest										
Oakland Banshees	6	0	0	1.000	0	0	0	.000	2-0	4-0
San Diego SeaCatz	1	5	0	.167	0	0	0	.000	1-3	0-2
California Quake	0	4	0	.000	0	0	0	.000	0-1	0-3

River Clty Bowlers Wlnter League Standlgs

These standings are for the second half of the season. The winner of the first half, "Marian & Her Merry Men", bowled the winner of the second half, Odd Person Out for the championship at the end of the season. Congratulations to Marian & Her Merry Men for winning the league championship for the 2003-2004 bowling year. Congratulations also go out to Dennis from the River City Bowlers for his first perfect game of 300 on the last night of bowling.

Position	Team	Won	Lost	Position	Team	Won	Lost
1	Odd Person Out	47.0	13.0	15	Pin Down Gals	29.0	31.0
2	Team #2	43.0	17.0	16	Maybe Next Week	27.5	32.5
3	#9 #9 #9	43.0	17.0	17	The Money Shot	25.5	34.5
4	The Twirling Five	39.0	21.0	18	The P/C Pink Ladies	25.5	34.5
5	Damifino	39.0	21.0	19	Hold Me Up	25.0	35.0
6	Gutter Queens	39.0	21.0	20	Rod's Rollers	25.0	35.0
7	Suckin' Liquor	36.5	23.5	21	Happy Campers	25.0	35.0
8	Slide It In The Pocket	36.5	23.5	22	Split Happens	22.5	37.5
9	The Marks Brothers	34.5	25.5	23	"ROC" On	22.5	37.5
10	Pinspankerz	33.0	27.0	24	Dizzy Chix	22.0	38.0
11	Pink Poodle Adventures	32.0	28.0	25	4 Girls N A Lady	21.0	39.0
12	Marian & Her Merry Men	31.5	28.5	26	Ball Busters	18.5	41.5
13	Gutter Minds	30.5	29.5	27	The Freshmen	18.5	41.5
14	2 Fish with 3 Poles	30.0	30.0	28	Lady and the Tramps	18.0	42.0

Summer Bowling Leagues are now forming, and will begin play on June 7, 2004 at AMF Land Park Bowl. For more information on how to participate in the summer league, call Tom Lane at 635-1535.

FROM THE EDITOR**...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

and idealism. Yeah, sure! My third article for the school paper telling people not to be embarrassed about who they are was deemed "offensive." Offensive? Telling people not to be embarrassed about themselves is offensive? "You said something about farting in class, we can't print stuff about farting."

I handed in my next article regarding gay pride day and a meeting was held to discuss my story. It ran, but I was then asked not to write about anymore gay topics for a while. Uh oh. My next article was about LGBT instructors. And as a bonus, instead of gay, I used the word 'queer.' I'm not sure it would have run if by a twist of fate, I was asked by an advisor to take over as the opinions editor. Suddenly I was in control of presenting to 21,000 students, faculty, alumni and a majority of others the views of Sacramento City College's student body. (Insert evil laughter here).

Commentaries about parking and cafeteria prices fell to the wayside. Articles about race relations, school shootings and student rights filled the

inner page. While other editors continued to think of me as a troublemaker because I felt student activism more newsworthy than parking lot potholes. It was an uphill battle, yet when I left the paper, my offensive articles had earned me a number of awards, scholarships and I would later find out inspired a number of people to take action and a photographer to come out.

I went on to write less sensitive material, leaving my activism behind and enjoying the calm. I even decided to tackle writing a small play. "You can't show people that," my friend chided me after reading the first draft. I was dumfounded. My simple tale of love in a Catholic parish—my work of art that at times I thought was so boring it wouldn't be produced was now labeled too controversial—not by just one friend, but a number of others who had read the first manuscript.

I applied myself even more to stop ruffling feathers; I was on the fast track to a stomach full of ulcers. I settled into a theater project that was certain to prove a mild-mannered success. No such luck. "Several people have said the piece is vulgar and that it shouldn't be allowed onstage," a confidant told me. After chugging some Mylanta and enjoying several revenge fantasies, I had the same reaction I always have—how can I make it even more vulgar? Aha, a challenge!

So what is it? Is it the Scorpio in me? I've been

told I'm too blunt, too upfront, too naive, too jaded, too controlling I've even been told I am too honest (perhaps explaining my lack of political skills). "You just like stirring up shit," a close friend of mine snapped. Another writer friend of mine told me I was too logical. "You believe that if you show people the obvious they'll accept it without question. People don't work that way. They need time to adjust."

He started me thinking about other people who had been, in my view, unfairly labeled as offensive. My mind immediately went to George Carlin. Ever since I was old enough to watch him I had liked him—not because of his off color jokes or his comic genius, but because the things he was saying challenged me to question. But what separated him from Bill Cosby who had messages in his comedy? Dirty jokes? Whoopi Goldberg took her messages laced with dirty jokes to Broadway—twice—and got awards.

What about the gay icon herself—Madonna? Look back to the scandals she provoked—singing about virgins, the Like a Prayer video, the SEX book. It all seems ridiculously tame today. But would it seem as tame to us now if she hadn't done it when she had? Hadn't paved the way? And is the SEX book with its artistic design comparable to oh, say Pam Anderson's hardcore video with not only her ex-husband, but a second one (Hello--Stupid? Are you home?) with Bret Michaels of Poison fame? And would Pam be able to show her face in public if Madonna hadn't helped remove so much of the negative stigma of female sexuality?

Why was Basic Instinct considered a revolutionary step in cinema and South Park was a menace to civilization? What is more offensive, stabbing a guy with an icepick while he's coming or foul-mouth cartoons?

Taking it a step beyond pop-culture—what about the larger scheme of things? Without people to push and challenge and "offend" the status quo, would we have a Harvey Milk? A Martin Luther King, Jr? A Caesar Chavez? When these people, who are now considered some of our greatest activists and civil rights leaders started to speak out, were they not labeled "shit-stirrers?"

Now, I'm not, nor would I ever think of myself in the same category as these great activists, nor even in the realm of George Carlin, Madonna or Trey Parker and Matt Stone (I'm offensive, not deluded). It is interesting to note, however, that after everything they did, how ever hard they pushed against our society's tightened envelope, they are all respected, influential individuals. And, might I add, butt-stinking rich. So, I have to believe that while their "offensive" behavior may have lead to a number of sleepless nights or bouts of indigestion, somewhere along the line, they began to embrace and enjoy their roles as the shit-stirrers of our society, whether they chose that path or not.

So, I suppose instead of fighting my natural tendencies, I should try to accept my role as a "shit-stirrer." Because whether the general census wants to admit it or not, we need our shit-stirrers. We need then to continue to point out the corn kernels of reality and the chunky nuts of logic in the piles of shit life hands us. Oh, dear, have I offended you? I do hope so. And I hope Larry knows what's in store for him. (Insert evil grin here.)

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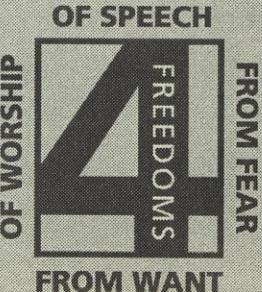
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The Shrub Needs Pruning

Daniel Roth takes on the hypocrisy of a religious zealot president

In the midst of a war in Iraq, rising budget deficits, and skyrocketing costs of health care, President Bush took time out of his busy schedule last fall to focus on a real problem—protecting marriage. The Marriage Protection Proclamation, as signed by Bush on Oct. 3, 2003 declares: "Marriage is a union between a man and a woman.... Research has shown that children raised in households headed by married parents fare better than children who grow up in other family structures." He then declared Oct. 12 - 18 to be "Marriage Protection Week," and with a flick of the wrist and a wink to the right, the President tossed a bone to the ultraconservative wing of his party and set the stage for a showdown in the making.

Now, eight months after the President's proclamation, both he and the Christian Right have their panties in a knot. First, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Council ruled

that same-sex couples have a right to civil marriages under the nation's oldest state constitution, then, Mayor Gavin Newsom, the Democratic mayor of San Francisco, did something that the President claimed he was going to do during the 2000 campaign—demonstrated compassion. Mayor Newsom, read the Constitution, got to the 14th Amendment, looked at the line: "No state shall deny to any citizen equal protection under the law," and directed his staff to begin issuing licenses to same-sex couples.

Newsom's leadership should come as no surprise because the Democratic Party has always been dedicated to civil rights in the United States. President Harry Truman desegregated the armed forces in 1948. In 1965 President Lyndon Johnson led the charge to enact the Voting Rights Act, which ended literacy tests and poll taxes that kept African-Americans from being able to vote. In 1999 Democratic Governor Gray Davis signed AB 26, which provided health benefits for domestic partners of state employees.

AB 26, as well as every bill advancing civil rights for gay and lesbian couples in California, has passed with no Republican in either house voting for it. So it should come as no surprise that Bush, along with his Republican cronies in Congress, have taken to the streets to write discrimination in the Constitution, declaring that marriage is between one man and one woman. Bush complained that the court's decision was judicial activism, and the court was ignoring the will of the people. Oddly, he was not complaining when five



Daniel Roth is the President of the Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento

"activist" judges on the Supreme Court went against the vote of the people and crowned him President.

Bush has made it his top social issue to protect the "sanctity of marriage." Yet, he was not singing that tune when his little brother Neil

recently got divorced. Seems lil' bro Neil had an affair and may have fathered children out of wedlock, and cumulated his dedication to the sanctity of marriage by marrying his mistress and secretary, but Shrub could not take rights away from his brother. He could not deny rights to all those moral and upstanding conservative

Republicans like Newt Gingrich who embraced marriage by serving divorce papers to his wife when she was in the hospital. Emperor

Bush decided to flex his muscle, ignore his Vice President, and attempt to write our civil rights out of the constitution because he needed a sound-bite for his re-election.

What Bush didn't anticipate was the over 4000 couples from 46 states who traveled to San Francisco to get married. These couples were all ages, all ethnicities, some together for over 50 years, others only a few months and they stood in line for hours, often in the rain, just so their love and commitment would be treated the same as everyone else's. These couples are Americans wanting equal protection under the law.

The same-sex marriage debate has nothing to do with tradition, nor what some religions have decreed to be "God's intentions." The issue is simple: We can no longer live in a country where the Declaration of Independence sets forth the great claim that "all men are created equal," but then forces same-sex couples into second class citizenship. No one, regardless of the color of their skin, religion, or gender of the person they love, should ever have to justify their love to any government, but should be embraced under the law as an equal citizen.

By Daniel Roth

President Bush should take a lesson from Mayor Newsom and work to protect all Americans, including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans—whom he expects to pay the same taxes and obey the same laws as everyone else. But perhaps saving his job is too important. Alas, the Proclamation is signed; his stance against civil rights is clear, and the hypocrisy of the Republican Party is a disgrace.

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RENO 411

By David Warpness

Take an after dark tour into the world of Reno's gay bars

The first time I visited Reno was pre the Silver Legacy remodel of Virginia Street which, at the time, reminded me of old downtown Las Vegas with its never ending pawn shops and panhandlers. The first gay bar I visited was small dive, off the main drag by some railroad tracks; the patrons would have looked more at home in a soup line—and as if to prove this point when I went to use the restroom a patron decided the line was too long and peed in the sink. But worse, no one seemed put off by this. So when I think of Reno, even with the positive changes, I never shake that first impression of a rundown, pissing-in-the-sink town full of derelicts and gamblers who never found their way back out of town. Over the subsequent years I made many trips to Reno, had lots of fun, saw some good shows, won and lost money, but have always been somewhat disappointed with the gay bar scene.

• • •

On a mission to explore the new gay nightlife of Reno, I entered a bar called *The Five Star* at 11pm on a Friday night. Located at 132 West Street, it is within walking distance of the downtown hotels so I thought this would be a popular spot with out of town visitors. True to my expectations, there were less than a dozen people, all locals, save for a middle-aged man from the Oroville area who approached me asking if I would be his date for the evening. When I told him I was not interested he left muttering something about there being no dates in this place.

I began playing video poker and discreetly surveying the rest of the scene when through

THROUGH THE DOOR WALKED A HOT, YOUNG LATINO HUNK AND, AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, HE TOOK THE SEAT NEXT TO ME AT THE BAR AND BEGAN TALKING TO ME.

local making conversation with me. Maybe this place wasn't so bad after all. I asked him about *Tronix* the newest club in town across the street from the dance bar *Visions*. But he'd never heard of it, citing that he'd been gone for a while visiting family in Mexico.

He told me *The Five Star* was never crowded, and that most people went to *The Quest*, a small club a couple of blocks away by the railroad tracks at 210 Commercial Row. I mentioned I had a vague memory of being there several years ago and agreed to give it another try as long as he was offering to play tour guide. He warned me that it's "mostly tweekers over there" but I was up for the adventure—after a quick trip to the restroom.

When I came out I found my tour guide in a quiet, but tense, argument with a slight, young Latino woman who was accompanied by a thug just waiting for a fight. He saw me out of the corner of his eye, backed out of his disagreement and we left. Once outside he tried to explain that 'the fat chick' at the bar started to talk to him and the angry woman was her girlfriend who thought he was trying to "make a move".

Whatever.

We entered *The Quest* at 12:30am, paid our \$3 covers and got both a wristband and a hand stamp. I got the beers while he made the rounds saying hi to people he apparently had not seen in awhile. The crowd was a decent size, but they did indeed look like burnouts and tweekers. All these years later and the place still had the same sleazy feel.

In no time we made it to the back of the club when lo and behold Ms. Pissed Off and Mr. Wanna Fight are making their way towards us. The same scene started, only now they were trying to bring me into it by mad-dogging me. I decided it was time for me to leave this ... wonderful establishment.

He followed me saying we should go to another club he knew. Thinking no, but saying yes—did I mention he was really cute?—we got in his car. The confession began before we were a block away. His time in Mexico was time

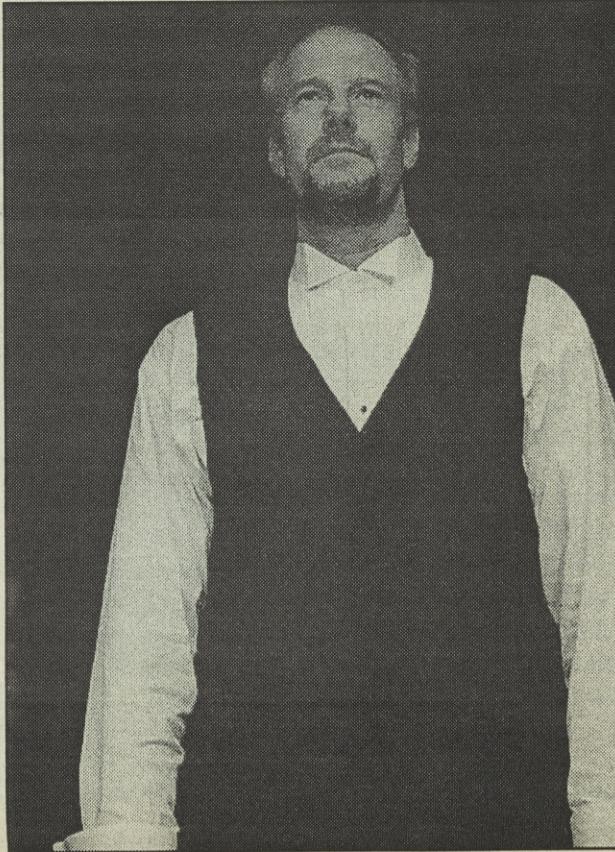


Photo by June vargas

DAVID WARPNESS EXPLORES THE RENO GAY BAR SCENE AND HAS QUITE AN ADVENTURE ALONG THE WAY.

on the lam for drug possession charges. He had turned himself in 5 months ago and had just gotten out of jail the day before. The argument was over drug dealing turf and his simply being back on the scene. I suddenly realized he wasn't that cute, anymore. Before I could protest we pulled into the parking lot of *Confetti's*, 50 E. Grove Street, which is as my tour guide described it a "straight Mexican bar." I figured what the hell, if I didn't like it I could always get a cab.

Confetti's was great! Huge dance floor, smoke machines, light show,

clear sound system, great decor, good looking men in tight pants, everywhere—it was everything a Reno gay bar should be. except it wasn't a gay bar. A professional dance troupe was performing traditional dances from Mexico, the beer was flowing, it was a party! Then I realized that JB was not at this party with me. He had set me up with great beer and a great table near the dance floor but now as I scanned the crowd I saw him moving effortlessly from dark corner to dark corner.

Time for me to go.

• • •

Saturday night started at 11:45 at *Carl's Pub*, 3310 S Virginia St, past *The Peppermill* and *Atlantis*. I had heard fun things about *Carl's* but had never been there before. The place has a leather/country theme going. The wall advertised it as being the host bar for gay rodeo happening the next weekend. The drinks were big and the bartender gave me a buy 6 get one free card that had an expiration date two weeks away. There was a small erotic boutique in one corner of the bar, a pool table and friendly patrons, but only 12 of us, and four of us were from Sacramento.

As the drinks flowed I was soon informed that *Carl's Pub* is hit or miss. I was told of

"towel parties" where they lock the doors once the party starts, I heard about foreskin shots (yes they are exactly what the name implies) being offered up and just the night before two guys were at the bar doing what used to be illegal in Texas. Anything goes was the theme of the stories and one patron even held up a DVD claiming that it was a video of the last special party the bar held. I guess I was there on a miss night but pictures of the bar events are posted on the web (Renodean.com/carlspub). I was soon out of there and on to *The 1099*.

The 1099, located at 1099 S. Virginia Street, had a packed parking lot. Once inside, I discovered that the large crowd was due to a drag show and it being one of the performer's birthday. There were picked over sandwich trays and cake in the lounge area off the main bar, the patio was dead but the main bar was crowded with people that all seemed to know and like each other. Not being in a drag show mood and

this guy that could have been William H. Macy's older brother kept bugging me, so I cut out for *Visions*.

Visions, 340 Kietzke Lane, was at one time the dance bar to visit. This Saturday night there were four people in the place. The look I got when I walked in made me feel like I had walked into someone's home uninvited...so I left for *Tronix*, just across the street at 303 Kietzke Lane. I could actually hear the *Tronix* sound system while in the parking lot of *Visions*.

Tronix is a video bar with a large dance floor and a mixed crowd of men and women, gay and straight. At 2 a.m. the party was in full swing with everyone was having a good time. I hooked up with a young Latino hunk (there seems to be a pattern here) and his older friend who spoke little English. We were having such a good time that when they suggested we head over to *The Quest* I

agreed, after all, it was within walking distance of The Silver Legacy which is where I was staying.

The Quest didn't seem so bad this time around, of course this was the fifth bar I had been in that night and I wasn't being threatened by drug dealers. I recognized many faces and then it dawned on me that at least half the crowd had been at *Tronix* earlier that night. My hosts confirmed that most people go back and forth between the two clubs throughout the course of an evening. Then it happened...I had to use the restroom. When I got there a man was peeing in the sink. Some things just don't change.

Q-AFTERDARK

After Dark Movie Review

[2] The Movie

By Ben A. Babboi

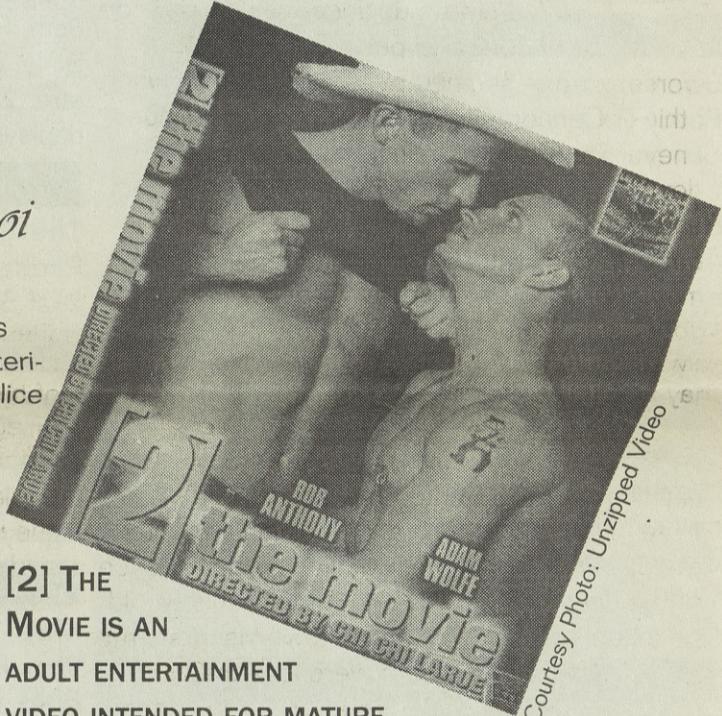
Usually movies that bare the names of our favorite magazines and star those beefcake models that have graced its pages...are lame. They are usually either artsy solo videos or they had a camera rolling during the photo shoot and decided to use it as a give-away for subscribing to the magazine.

However, put Chi Chi LaRue behind the camera and some decent production value into the flick, and we have the movie I just watched. [2] The Movie is a mixture of tasteful artistic quality and good old-fashioned dirty play.

There are four scenes. Trey Alimore stars as a virgin (there's stretching the imagination) who

calls an escort played by the daddy-liscious Jack Ryan. Then Rob Anthony gets a mysterious phone call and a surprise visit from police officer Adam Wolfe, who just happens to show up right after the call—how very Scream 2. When Adam gets home to boyfriend Sam Tyson, a surprise twist isn't all that gets reveled. And finally Jason Land and Rob Romoni heat things up by the pool.

This is defiantly a film worth the look and is another LaRue classic. You love the magazine. Now see the movie! An Unzipped Video/Channel 1 Releasing DVD. Also available on VHS.



[2] THE
MOVIE IS AN
ADULT ENTERTAINMENT
VIDEO INTENDED FOR MATURE
VIEWERS OVER THE AGE OF 18 ONLY.

Courtesy Photo: Unzipped Video

The ins and outs of Reno's gay bars

1099 Club, 1099 S. Virginia
775.329.1099

<http://www.ten99club.com/>
Hours: 24/7, Happy Hour: 4-7pm & 4-7am
Hook: Home To The Silver Dollar Court Of Reno

Cadillac Lounge, 144 West Street
775.348.7827

Hook: Lipstick Divas Show
Carl's Pub, 3310 S. Virginia
775.829.8886
<http://www.renodean.com/carlspub/links.html>
Hook: "Where Men Are Men & Boys Are Prey"
Leather Goods For Sale, "Reno's Friendliest Gay Bar" Reno News & Review, 3 years

Confetti's, 50 East Grove
Hours: Fri-Sat 9pm-5am
775.829.9477

Hook: NOT A GAY BAR. high-energy dance club, live Latin weekends, live concerts on Sundays.

Five Star Saloon, 132 West St.
775.329.2878
<http://www.5starsaloon.com>

The Patio, 600 W. 5th St.
775.323.6565
<http://www.thepatiobar.com/>
Hours: 11am-2am, Happy Hour: 4-7pm
Hook: Video poker, pool tables, darts, karaoke Tues. & Thurs.

The Quest, 210 Commercial Row
775.333.2808
Hours: Noon-5am/24-hour weekends.

Tronix, 303 Kietzke Lane
775.333.9696
<http://www.tronixreno.com>
Hours: 10am-3am, Happy Hour: 4-7pm
Hook: Over 30 video screens and 1000's of music videos. Go-Go dancers Sat. 11pm. No cover charge, Latino night every Weds.

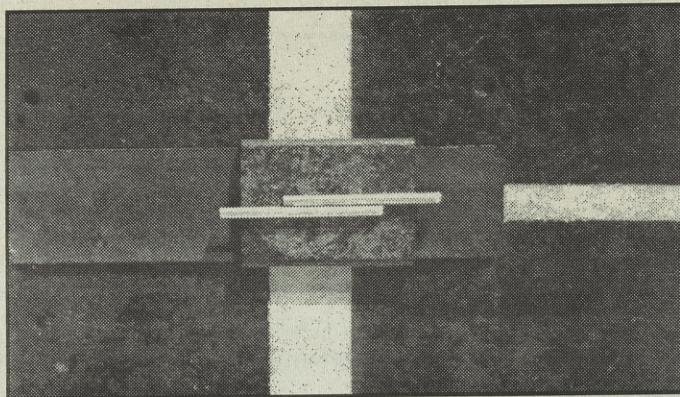
Visions, 340 Kietzke Lane
775.786.5455
<http://home.nvbell.net/reedbl1/visions/visions.htm>
Hook: Pool table and small patio

Q-EVENTS

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To get your event listed, send your press release to: Q-Ragg, P.O. Box 162699, Sac, CA 95816 or send us a fax at 916.381.8121.

You can also send us your info in an email at events@q-ragg.com. Remember to include the who, what, where, when & why of your



JUNE 5, SATURDAY

2004 Lambda Freedom Fair
10am-6pm, This is the 20th annual Fair, Southside Park, 442-0185, lambdasac.org.

JUNE 12, SATURDAY

Booksing
Randy P. Conner, *Queering Creole Spiritual Traditions*, 7pm, Open Book, 910 21st St., 498-1004, openbookltd.com
Second Saturday Art Walk
Art by Crystal Weber, 6-10pm, Medium: metal assemblages, Uptown Studios, 912 1/2 J St., 446.1082, uptownstudiosgallery.com

JUNE 13, SUNDAY

Davis Gay Pride
Noon-4pm, 9th annual Picnic Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy it with free bagels and cream cheese, and free ice cream. Central Park (corner 5th and C Streets). gaydaydavis.org

JUNE 15, TUESDAY

Sacramento PFLAG Meeting
7:30-9:30pm, Rap group directed by Will Green, St. Marks United Methodist Church, 2301 St. Marks Way, 978-0410, sacramentopflag.org
Lesbian Families Photo Session
5-9pm, Photos for 2005 calendars to benefit local LGBT charities, Uptown Studios, 912 1/2 J Street, 446-1082, uptownstudiosgallery.com

JUNE 17, THURSDAY

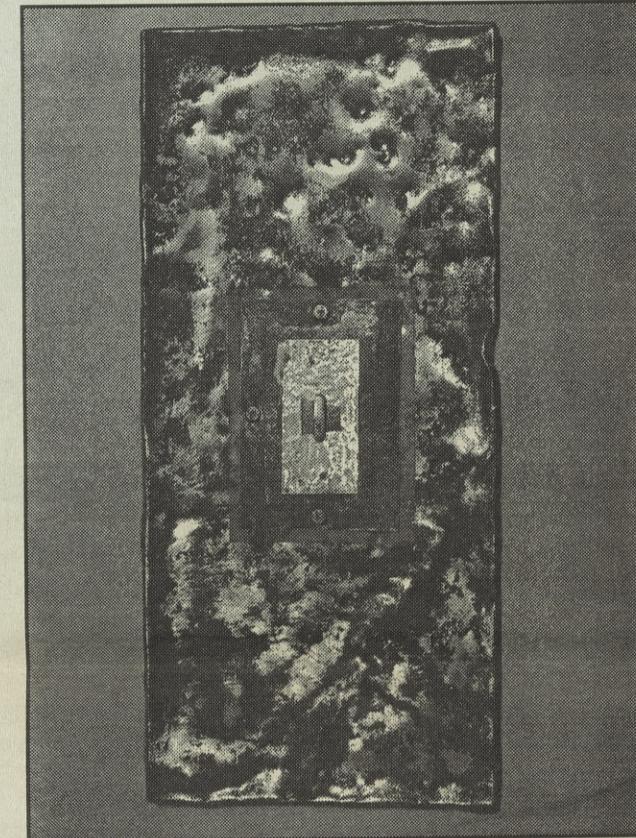
Women's Monthly Mixer
5:30pm, Uptown Studios, 912 1/2 J Street, 446-1082, uptownstudiosgallery.com

JUNE 18, FRIDAY

Most Fabulous Story Ever Told
8pm, Paul Rudnick's epic spoof on the Bible, Lambda Players, 24th Street theatre, 2971 24th St., 484-4742, lambdaplayers.com

Discover art by Crystal Weber this coming Second Saturday Art Walk at Uptown Studios, 6-10pm. Crystal draws inspiration from walks down the railroad tracks and alleys, collecting pieces of metal then creates beautiful found metal assemblages. This is Weber's first one-woman show and the perfect gallery to show her work is Uptown Studios.

This show will continue thru July 2. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm, 912 1/2 J Street, 446.1082, uptownstudiosgallery.com



PRIDE DATES

Santa Cruz Pride • June 6
santacruzpride.org • (831) 427-4009

Arcata Pride • June 11-13
humboldtpride.org • (707) 839-5205

San Francisco Pride • June 26-27
sfpride.org/ • (415) 864-0831

San Diego Pride • July 30-August 1
sdpride.org • 619-297-7683

Reno Pride • August 20-22
renogaypride.com • (775) 825-2117

Sacramento Rainbow Festival • Sept. 5
rainbowfestival.com • 916-448-0706 x11

Chico Pride • September 18
stonewallchico.org/freedom.html • (530) 893-3336

Palm Springs Pride • November 5-7
pspride.org • (760) 416-8711

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